

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒   
no ☐

Property Name: Ford/Sterling House Inventory Number: SM-343  
Address: 22770 Washington Street Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: Leonardtown Zip Code: 20650 County: Saint Marys  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Leonardtown  
Property Owner: Elizabeth and Thomas Hicks and Robert Schick Tax Account ID Number: 024423  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 476 Tax Map Number: 133  
Project: MD 5 Business within Leonardtown Town Limits Streetscape Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration  
Agency Prepared By: Maryland State Highway Administration  
Preparer's Name: Anne Bruder and Stacey Streett Date Prepared: 12/28/2005  
Documentation is presented in: Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Survey Form SM-343 and Project and Review Compliance Files  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no  
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Note: Please refer to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Form SM-343 for specific information regarding the architecture and historic context.

The Ford/Sterling House was constructed circa 1850s, with a circa 1910 turret and other early twentieth-century modifications. It is an Italianate-style, two-story frame building with a hipped roof that is located on the east side of Washington Street and faces west. It is three bays wide by three rooms deep and topped with a flat roof. A full-width, first-story, wrap-around, shed-roof porch is located on the façade (west elevation) and south elevation. Decorative square columns support the porch. A three-sided, two-story, Queen-Anne-style turret is located on the northwest corner of the façade. It is topped by a steep, four-sided roof clad in pressed-tin shingles; a finial is located on the pinnacle of the roof.

The building is supported by a brick foundation, and the exterior walls are clad in aluminum siding. There are two large, nine-over-six, double-hung sash windows located on the first story of the façade, which are flanked by louvered shutters. The remaining fenestration on the nineteenth-century portion of the building consists of six-over-six, double-hung, sash windows. Shutters flank the majority of the windows on the façade only. The turret is pierced by one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. Window

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments: *Associated with Leonardtown's 19th Century development. Retains architectural integrity of its building type*

*[Signature]*  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

3/23/06

Date

*[Signature]*  
Reviewer, National Register Program

3/27/06

Date

200600560

configurations on the kitchen ell are six-over-six and two-over-two. The main entrance is located under the front porch adjacent to the turret on the north side of the façade. A transom is placed just above the door lintel.

A full-width, shed-roof, screened porch extends from the east elevation. It is supported by identical columns as those found on the wrap-around porch. The two-story kitchen ell is adjacent to the north elevation and projects beyond the east (rear) side of the house. It is topped by a shed roof that slants to the south.

An extremely low-pitched hipped roof tops the main portion of the building, and is covered in raised-seam metal shingles. The roof terminates in a wide-eave boxed cornice. A pair of interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps punctuates the roof.

The interior plan of the original section is a double-pile, side-passage configuration. Intricate woodwork and interior features remains intact throughout the first floor.

The property is bordered by a sloping terrace and woods to the east, by Wesley Chapel (SM-530) to the south, a wooded parcel to the north, and by Washington Street on the west. Evergreen and flowering shrubs accent the front lawn and sides of the house and various deciduous trees are located around the residence. Frame outbuildings located east of the residence vary in date, from contemporary with the house to modern. The historic boundary is confined to St. Mary's County tax parcel 476 on tax map 133.

#### History

The property was purchased by John Batzell in 1848, who then likely conveyed it to his daughter Ellen and her husband, Judge Robert Ford. After 1885, the property went through several exchanges of ownership. In 1911, Ruth Sterling and her husband Lynwood purchased the house and made significant additions to the building, such as the Queen Anne-style turret and a two-story kitchen ell on the north elevation. The property was still under the ownership of the Sterling family during the 1980 survey.

#### Significance

Based on the information in the 1980 and 1997 MIHP Forms and SHA's field visit, the Ford/Sterling House is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion C (architecture). It is a significant example of a vernacular Italianate-style dwelling with Queen Anne-style modifications in Leonardtown. Previous research indicated a possible important association with Judge Robert Ford. However, further research did not uncover any significant local, state, or national importance or events associated with Judge Robert Ford, an early resident of the house. Therefore the Ford/Sterling House is not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criteria A or B. Criterion D was not investigated as part of the historic standing structures study.

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

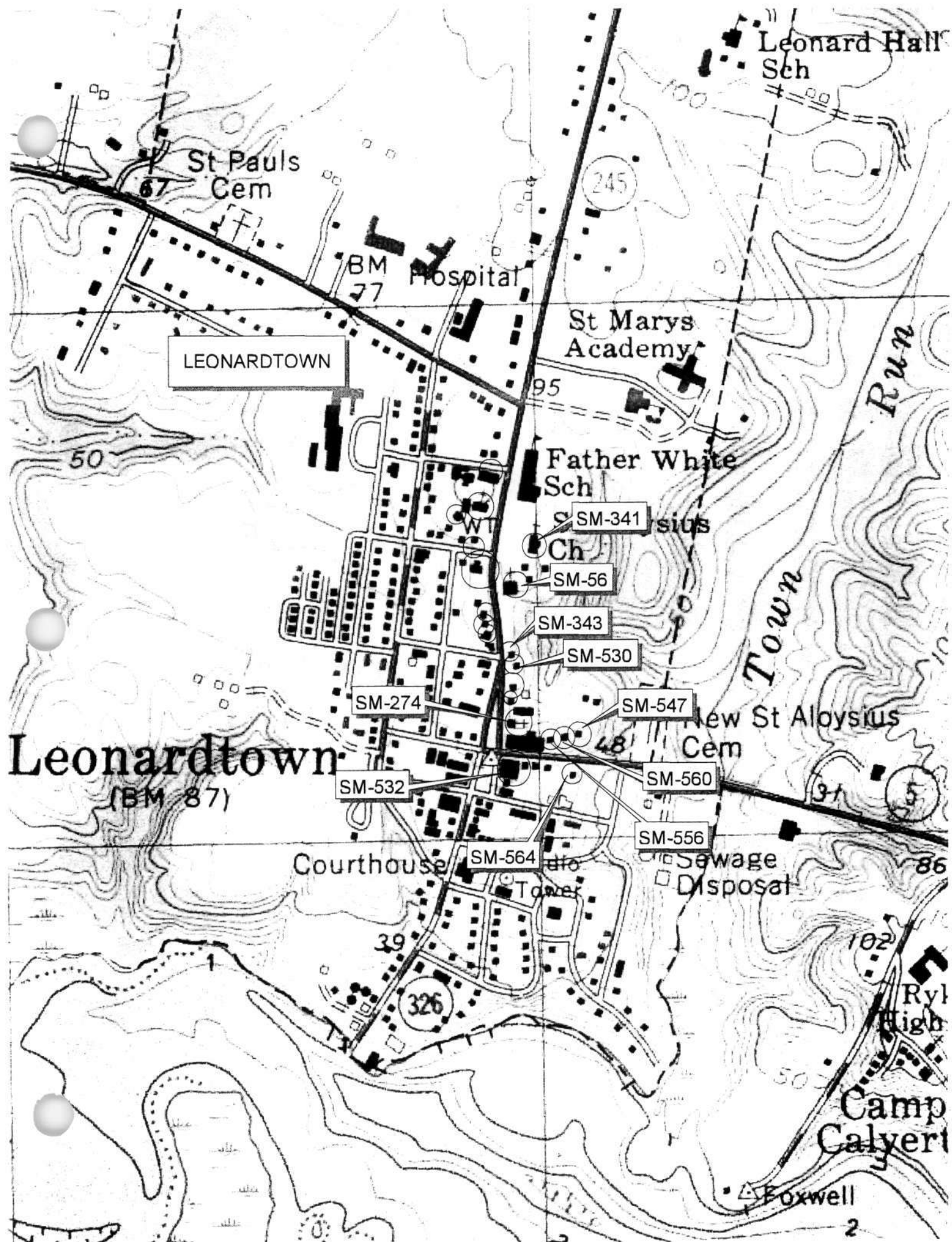
MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





SM 343

STERLING HOUSE

ST. MARY'S CO. MD.

BRIDGE

FEB 2005

MD 3110

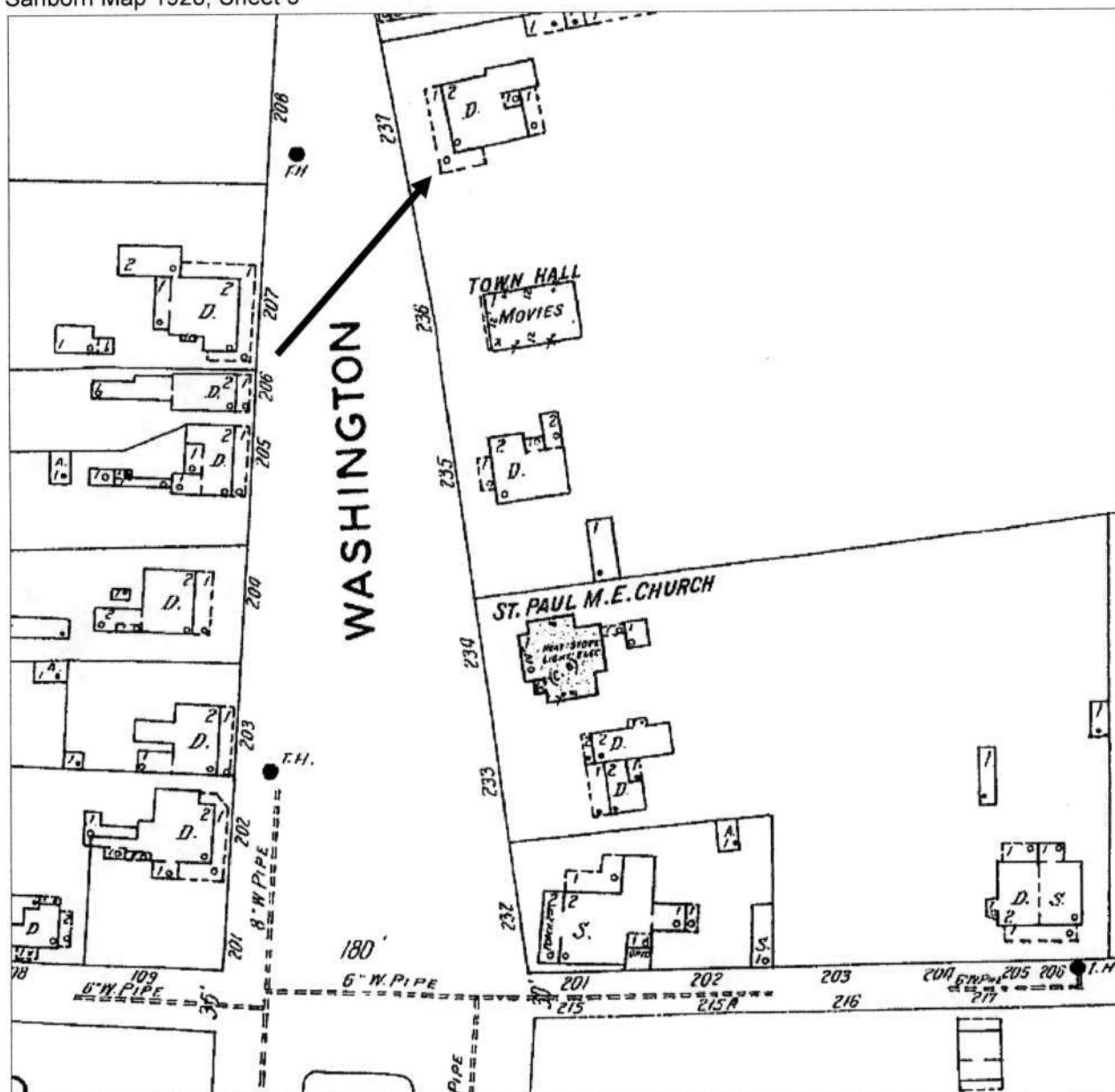
ART-2611 <No. 13A>014

167 1717 -1 N N N-05 (044)0

LOOKING AT SOUTH AND WEST FACADES

MD 3110

SM-343  
Sterling House (Ford House)  
22770 Washington Street (MD 326), Leonardtown  
Sanborn Map 1928, Sheet 3



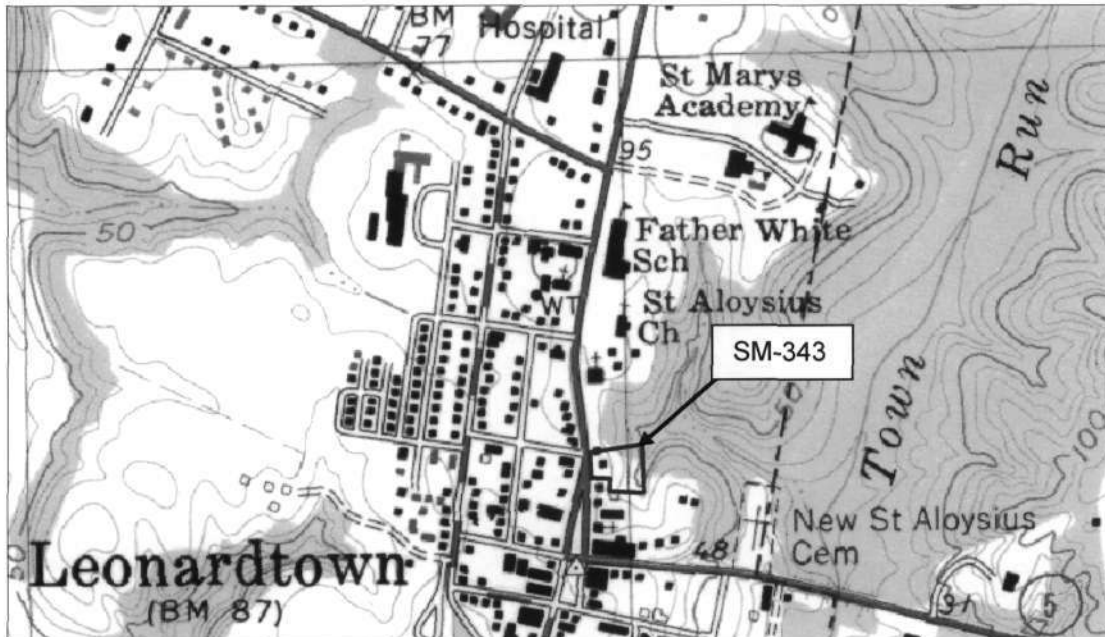


SM-343

Sterling House (Ford House)

22770 Washington Street (MD 326), Leonardtown

Leonardtown quad 1963 (Photorevised 1984, Bathymetry added 1982)



National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map,  
c. 2007-08

Tax Map 133, P. 476



Capsule Summary  
SM-343  
Ford/Sterling House  
Leonardtown  
Private

c. 1850's

The Ford/Sterling House, constructed in the 1850's, is a significant two-story, three bay, Italianate-style dwelling located near the commercial heart of Leonardtown, Maryland. While an important example of the Italianate-style in Leonardtown, the house also has important associations with a county judge and possibly with a pair of local contractors.

In 1848 John Baltzell purchased a 1 3/4 acre tract in Leonardtown from Ann Carpenter. Baltzell, a native of Frederick County, Maryland, presumably purchased the lot for his daughter Ellen M. Baltzell and her husband Judge Robert Ford. While Judge Ford was apparently living on the lot as early as the 1840's, the architectural evidence found in the Ford/Sterling house as well as other nearby dwellings suggests a later construction date. Eldon (SM-338), for instance, constructed in 1867, features nearly identical exterior details, massing, fenestration, floor plan, stair newel, and stair brackets. Eldon was built for Robert C. Combs and his wife Ruth E. (Ford) Combs (the daughter of Judge Robert and Ellen Ford) by Thomas C. Greenwell and George Horne. Because of the exterior and interior similarities between the two dwellings it is plausible that the two were built by the same builder.

In 1885, the heirs of Judge Robert Ford sold the property to Margaret Ellen Boyd who then transferred the property to J. Parran Crane and Mollie D. Crane in 1891. In 1911, the Cranes sold the house to Lynwood J. and Ruth E. Sterling who constructed a significant addition to the house. Because of their growing family, the Sterling's built a Queen-Anne style turret as



Capsule Summary  
SM-343  
Ford/Sterling House  
Leonardtown  
Private  
(Page 2)

well as a rear kitchen ell on the north side of the dwelling. According to oral tradition, the addition was styled after the Sterling's old home on the Eastern Shore. The three sided, two story, turret featured a steep four sided roof covered with pressed-tin shingles. This design also has precursors in Leonardtown such as the c. 1899 W.W. Sawyer House (SM-365). At present, the Ford/Sterling house remains under the Sterling family ownership.

SM-343, Ford/Sterling House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Historic Period Theme:	Architecture

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function and Use:	Dwelling
Known Design Source:	None

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-343

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Ford House

and/or common Sterling House (pref.)

**2. Location**

street & number 22770 Washington Street (new numbering system) ☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown ☐ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM 133, P 476

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mary T. Sterling, et al

street & number PO Box 203 telephone no.: 301-475-2447

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Md 20650

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 980

street & number folio 244

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title Sterling House

date September 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-343

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Sterling House is located on the east side of Washington Street approximately 0.2 miles south of the intersection of Washington Street and Route 5 in the heart of Leonardtown's historic and commercial center. The dwelling is oriented on a east/west axis and is situated on a steep easterly sloping 1.3 acre parcel. The east slope has been diminished by a series of two grassy terraces. The house is bounded on the west by Washington Street, on the south by the Wesley Chapel (SM-530), on the east by a wooded tract, and to the north by a vacant wooded town lot.

The Sterling house, constructed c. 1850s, is a two story, three bay, Italianate-style dwelling with a side-passage, double-pile plan and a c. 1910s two story addition. The original section of the dwelling rests on a five-to-one common bond brick foundation while the addition is situated on a seven-to-one common bond brick foundation. The frame walls are sheathed with aluminum siding. The wide projecting eaves feature an enclosed cornice. The hipped roof over the main section is sheathed with raised-seam metal, while the roof of the turret addition is composed of decorative pressed metal shingles and raised-seam metal. The roof is pierced by two interior brick chimneys that each contain raised or projecting panels much like those found at Greenbriar (SM-211) and Eldon (SM-338).

The primary or west elevation consists of the original two-story, three bay section and the c. 1910s, three sided, two-story turret. The original section is pierced by two, nine-over-six, double-hung sash windows--each window featuring a pair of louvered shutters--and a pair of panelled French or swinging doors with a single light transom overhead. The first floor of the original section is entirely shaded by a wrap around porch supported by a series of square columns that feature bands of trim near their tops to indicate capitals. The second floor features three, six-over-six windows with each window exhibiting a pair of louvered shutters. On the first and second floor, the c. 1910s turret features three sides with each side containing a one-over-one window. The roof of the turret is covered with pressed metal shingles and the peak exhibits a finial.

The south elevation of the original section is pierced on the first floor by two, six-over-six windows. The porch wraps around the southwest corner of the dwelling to shade these two openings. The second floor is pierced by three, six-over-six windows. This elevation also features a c. 1910 two-story, shed roof (similar to the roofs found on so called "flounder houses" in urban areas such as Georgetown and Annapolis, Maryland) addition that extends beyond the rear of the house. This addition features a six-over-six window on the first floor and a six-over-six window and two-over-two window on the second floor.

The east elevation features the rear sides of the original section and the 1910s additions. The original section is pierced by a paired set of six-over-six windows and a six panel door on the first floor. These bays are shaded by a porch with square columns with the identical use of trim to indicate capitals. Three, six-over-six windows pierce the second floor. Between the original section and the projecting addition is a door on the first floor that leads to the rear porch and a two-over-two window on the second floor. The projecting addition features a six-pane-over-three-panel door that permits access to the basement. This door is protected by a projecting eave

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-343

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ford/Sterling House, constructed in the 1850s, is a significant Italianate-style dwelling located near the commercial heart of Leonardtown, Maryland. While an important example of the Italianate-style in Leonardtown, the house also has important associations with a county judge and possibly with a pair of local contractors.

In 1848 John Baltzell purchased a 1 3/4 acre tract in Leonardtown from Ann Carpenter. Baltzell, a native of Frederick County, Maryland, presumably purchased the lot for his daughter Ellen M. Baltzell and her husband Judge Robert Ford. Interestingly, Judge Ford is listed as already living on the lot when Baltzell bought the town lot. While this points to a c. 1840s construction date, the architectural evidence found in the Ford/Sterling house suggests a later date. First, the Italianate-style did not emerge in St. Mary's County until, at the earliest, the 1850s. Second, a very similar house, Eldon (SM-338) was not constructed until 1867. Eldon features a nearly identical floor plan, stair newel, and stair brackets. The mantles at the Ford/Sterling House, however, feature a squatty, rectilinear, and more severe appearance than the mantles at Eldon thus pointing to a pre-Civil War construction date.

Interestingly, Eldon was built for Robert C. Combs and his wife Ruth E. (Ford) Combs (the daughter of Judge Robert and Ellen Ford) by Thomas C. Greenwell and George Horne. Because of the exterior and interior similarities between the two dwellings it seems plausible that the two were built by the same builder. The familial and architectural ties between these two buildings need to be more closely investigated.

Judge Robert and Ellen Ford had three children Ruth E., J. Frank, and P. Frances. The prominent status of the Ford family is confirmed by the activities of at least two of their children. As previously mentioned Ruth E. Ford married a prominent local lawyer Robert C. Combs and J. Frank Ford eventually became the St. Mary's County Clerk of the Circuit Court. In 1885, the heirs of Judge Robert Ford sold the property to Margaret Ellen Boyd for \$1000. Margaret and Thomas Boyd then sold the property to J. Parran Crane and Mollie D. Crane in 1891. In 1911, the Cranes sold the house to Lynwood J. and Ruth E. Sterling.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-343

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** 1.3 acres

Quadrangle name Leonardtown, Md

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone Easting Northing

**B**

Zone Easting Northing

**c**

**D**

**E**

F | | | | | | | | | |

**G**

H | | | | | | | | | |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

**11. Form Prepared By**

<b>name/title</b>	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor
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**organization** St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning

**date** April 1997

**street & number** 22740 Washington Street

**telephone** 301-475-4662

city or town Leonardtown

**state** Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MDHP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2  
514-7600



SM-343, Sterling House  
St. Mary's County  
7.1 Description

supported by a pair of brackets. A six-over-six window with a modern planter box over it pierces the first floor.

The north elevation consists of two simultaneously constructed sections, separated by a slight jog in the wall. The eastern section of this elevation is pierced by two, six-over-six windows. A six-over-six window located between the two floors provides light to a rear service stair. The second floor is pierced by two, six-over-six windows. The western section is pierced by two elongated two-over-two windows on the first floor and three, smaller sized two-over-two windows on the second floor.

The interior of the original section features a double-pile, side-passage plan. The stair passage features an open string stair with a squatty-shaped turned newel, rounded balusters, and scroll sawn stair brackets. From the stair passage, both the front and rear parlors can be entered via a six panel door surrounded by an architrave. The parlors are separated by a pair of pocket-sliding doors that are panelled. Each of the parlors feature a mantle decorated with a pair of squatty, square-shaped, engaged columns that support a plain fascia frieze and a shelf. The rear parlor mantle also features a semicircular opening for the firebox. This opening's edge is decorated with a grapevine motif. The ceilings on the first floor are twelve feet high. The stair passage also permits entry into the c. 1910s addition. The northwest corner room served as the dining room and still contains the family table that could serve at least twenty people. The door and window surrounds of this room and the other rooms in the addition feature corner blocks and reeded trim. To the east of the dining room is space that leads to the rear kitchen ell. The kitchen ell features a pantry and food preparation area. This section of the house is sheathed with diagonally placed beaded matchstick and features an enclosed service stair. The second floor of the house was inaccessible at the time of the visit.

## SM-343, Ford/Sterling House

St. Mary's County

### 8.1 Significance

#### Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 980, Folio 244

Grantee: Mary Theresa Sterling and Joseph Ernest Bell II and St. Aloysius R.C. Church

Grantor: John M. Sterling

Date: August 17, 1993

Notes: The deed notes that the tract contains 1.3 acres and contains a two story frame house.

Reference: Liber EWA 980, Folio 241

Grantee: John M. Sterling (son of John B. and Nell L. Sterling)

Grantor: John M. Sterling (personal representative of Nell L. Sterling)

Date: August 17, 1993

Notes: Nell L. Sterling died on July 8, 1992 intestate so John M. Sterling was appointed personal representative.

Reference: Liber EWA 980, Folio 2

Grantee: Nell L. Sterling

Grantor: John M. Sterling acting on behalf of Nell L. Sterling

Date: August 17, 1993

Notes: In 1964 Ruth Sterling died. She was survived by 12 children and 5 grandchildren. The property was then conveyed to Nell L. Sterling by John M. Sterling who acted on her behalf as the personal representative of the estate of John B. Sterling.

Reference: Liber EBA 9, Folio 188

Grantee: Lynwood J. and Ruth E. Sterling

Grantor: J. Parran Crane and Mollie D. Crane

Date: January 27, 1911

Reference: Liber JFF 12, Folio 436

Grantee: J. Parran and Mollie D. Crane

Grantor: Thomas and Margaret E. Boyd

Date: March 26, 1891

Notes: The property is purchased from the Boyds for \$2000.

Reference: Liber JFF 9, Folio 377

Grantee: Margaret Ellen Boyd

Grantor: J. Frank Ford and Ida C. Ford, Robert C. Combs and Ruth E. Combs, and Frances P. Ford -- heirs of Ellen M. Ford and Robert Ford

Date: December 15, 1885

Notes: Margaret Ellen Boyd purchased the property for \$1000. The deed also notes that Ellen M. (Baltzell) Ford received the property from her father John Baltzell of Frederick City, Maryland. His will, made on November 20, 1850, advanced \$2500 to his daughter to purchase a house and lot in Leonardtown. When he died in 1854 the property reverted to Ellen.

SM-343, Ford/Sterling House  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber WTM 1, Folio 351

Grantee: John Baltzell

Grantor: Ann Carpenter

Date: January 4, 1848

Notes: The deed notes that the lot was occupied by Robert Ford. It notes that Ann Carpenter purchased the property from Richard Forrest, Joseph Forrest, Nicolaus Turck and Elizabeth A. Turck. While containing 1 3/4 acres, the lot did not include the portion of the lot on which the Methodist Church now stands. The property line is noted as being 10 feet from said wall of the church.

Reference: Liber JH 13, Folio 402

Grantee: Ann Carpenter

Grantor: Richard Forrest, Joseph Forrest, Nicolaus Turck and Elizabeth A. Turck (heirs of James Forrest)

Date: 1844

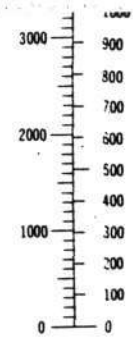
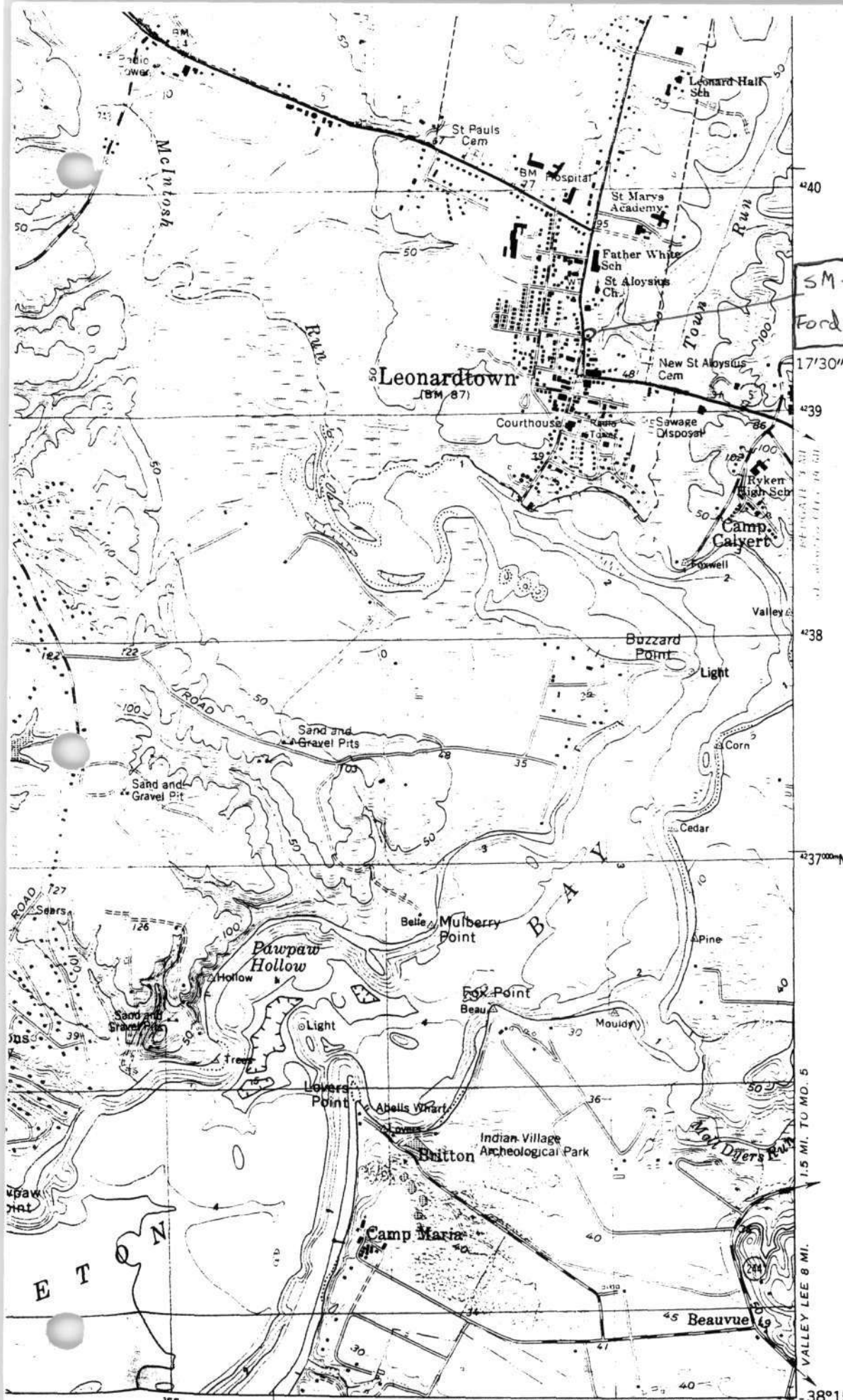
Notes: The deed notes that the property contains two acres.

## SM-343, Ford/Sterling House

St. Mary's County

### 8.3 Significance

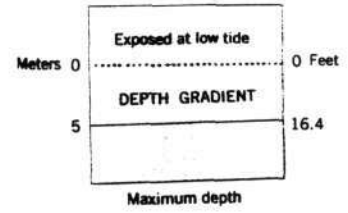
Soon after they purchased the house, the Sterling's constructed a significant addition to the house. Because of their growing family, 12 children in all, the Sterling's built a Queen-Anne style turret as well as a rear kitchen ell on the north side of the dwelling. According to oral tradition, the addition was styled after the Sterling's old home on the Eastern Shore. The three sided, two story, turret featured a steep four sided roof covered with pressed-tin shingles. This design also has predecessors in Leonardtown such as the W.W. Sawyer House (SM-365). The house remains under the Sterling family ownership.



SM-343  
Ford/Sterling House

Feet	Meters
1	.3048
2	.6096
3	.9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters  
multiply by .3048  
  
To convert meters to feet  
multiply by 3.2808



LEONARDTOWN, MD.  
SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
38076-C6-TB-024

1963  
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
PHOTOREVISED 1984  
DMA 5660 I SW SERIES V833

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

(PIN-1 P)  
5660





SM-343

Ford-Sterling House  
St. Mary's County, Md

Kirk Ranzetta

March, 1997

Md SHPO

W + S elevations

1 of 4



SM- 343

Sterling House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

May 1997

Md SHPO

View from porch - looking S

2 of 4



SM-343

Sterling House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Rancette

May 1997

Md SHPO

StE elevations

3 of 4





SM-342

Sterling House

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

May 1997

MD SHPO

Interior - looking N

4 of 4

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Sterling House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

218 Washington Street (old numbering system)

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Mary's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ruth Sterling

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

218 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

VICINITY OF

Maryland <sup>STATE</sup> 20650 zip code**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

<sup>STATE</sup>  
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Sterling House is a two-story frame house of the late 19th century located on the east side of Washington St., facing west toward the intersection of Shadrick Street. The main facade on Washington St. is 4 bays wide; the northernmost bay projects in a polygonal tower through both floors, ending in a conical turret with a stamped metal roof and a knob finial. The main roof is low pitched with a metal standing seam surface. The exterior is covered in asbestos shingles. A 1-story flat roofed porch covers the remaining three bays of the west facade and curves around onto the south elevation. It has vernacular Tuscan square columns. The foundation is brick and there is a central brick chimney. The fenestration is varied, including several modern alterations and aluminum sash and green louvred shutters at some windows.

Several frame outbuildings behind the house may vary in construction date from contemporary with the house to modern

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sterling House is a fairly intact example of late-19th century small town residential architecture. The prominent corner turret so often found in Queen Anne and other styles of the period is here tacked on to a basic traditional floor plan. Undoubtedly this was an attempt by the builder to emphasize the house's position on the main street of Leonardtown, but the siting of the house back from the street and the subsequent tree growth around it have now blunted the impact of this feature. Nevertheless, it indicates a feeling for urban location by the builder, in spite of Leonardtown's small size.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Janet Davis

ORGANIZATION

MHT/SHA Surveyor

DATE

September 26, 1980

STREET &amp; NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

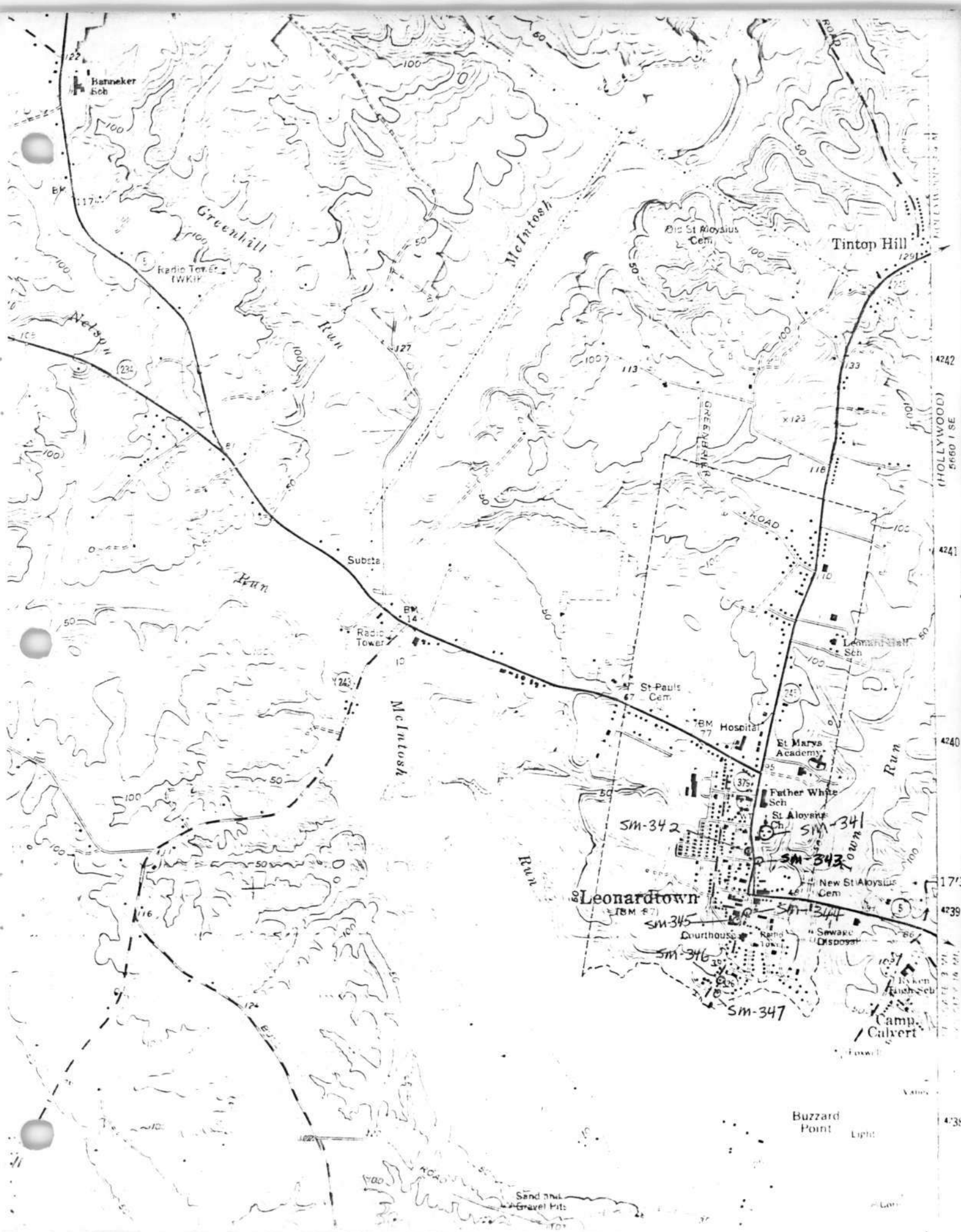
STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



LEONARDTOWN QUAD





Sterling House

218 Washington St.

Leonardtown, MD

photo: Janet Davis

neg loc: MD Historical Trust

9 September 1980

west elevation

1/1